

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 10663 221058Z

11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 SCCT-01 /069 W

----- 029089

R 221004Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5899

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JO, PLO

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD PLO

REF: STATE 198430

1. THE STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO KING HUSSEIN REJECTING FEDAYEEN PRESENCE IN JORDAN WAS FEATURED IN SEVERAL BEIRUT PAPERS AUG 9, CITING AP AS SOURCE. HUSSEIN WAS QUOTED AS SAYING DURING AN AUG 7 LUNCHEON FOR FOREIGN JOURNALISTS IN AMMAN: "I WILL NOT ALLOW THE COMMANDOS TO ENTER THIS COUNTRY ANOTHER TIME. THIS IS FINAL." PRIMIN RIFAI WAS ALSO QUOTED TO THE SAME EFFECT. ON AUG 10 AND 11, SHARP RE-ACTIONS FROM FEDAYEEN SOURCES WERE REPORTED, INCLUDING THOSE MENTIONED BEIRUT 10265.

2. THE BEIRUT PRESS CARRIED A JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT EXPLAINING HUSSEIN'S ALLEGED REMARK ON AUG 14. THIS STATEMENT WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HUSSEIN HAD MERELY REFUSED TO ALLOW "A RECURRENCE OF PAST TRAGEDIES." THE COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO RIFAI WERE ALSO OFFICIALLY DENIED, THE PRESS REPORTED.

3. THIS JORDANIAN "CLARIFICATION" WAS WIDELY INTERPRETED

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HERE AS AN EFFORT BY HUSSEIN TO KEEP OPEN THE POSSIBILITY

OF RECONCILIATION WITH THE PLO. BUT PLO SPOKESMEN THROUGHOUT THE EPISODE HAVE STOOD ON THE POSITION THAT THE RABAT SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS CALLED FOR A FEDAYEEN PRESENCE IN JORDAN AND HUSSEIN MUST AGREE TO THIS.

4. US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT CORRESPONDENT STATIONED IN BEIRUT TOLD EMBOFF AUG 19 THAT HE WAS PRESENT AT AUG 7 LUNCHEON IN AMMAN AND TAPED KING'S REMMRKS, WHICH WERE AS EMPHATIC AS ORIGINAL BEIRUT PRESS REPORTS INDICATED.
GODLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, LIBERATION GROUPS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT10663
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750291-0094
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750824/aaaaautv.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 198430
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 AUG 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JORDANIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD PLO
TAGS: PFOR, JO, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006